

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit, comprising at least two bearing means (1, 2) which are displaceably supported with respect to each other, at least one of which bearing means (1, 2) comprises two metals means parts (9, 10; 17, 19) which are connected to each other through a connection means (11; 18; 24; 28), characterised in that wherein the connection means (11; 18; 24; 28) comprises a brazed and/or soldered connection (14, 15; 22).

2. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1, wherein the connection means (11; 18; 24; 28) also comprises at least one further connection, e.g. a welded (16; 27), screwed (30) glued or a plastically formed (23) connection.

3. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the bearing means are carried out as ring means (1, 2) which are rotatably supported with respect to each other, at least one of said ring means (1, 2) comprising ring means parts (9, 10; 17, 19) which are connected through a connection means (11; 18; 24; 28) which comprises a brazed and/or a soldered connection (14, 15; 22).

4. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 3, wherein at least two series of rolling elements (7, 8) are provided which are each in contact with

respective raceways (~~3, 4~~) of both ring means parts (~~9, 10~~), wherein each ring means part (~~9, 10~~) is connected to an intermediate ring part (~~12, 13~~) through a brazed connection (~~14, 15~~), and said intermediate ring parts (~~12, 13~~) are connected to each other through a welded connection (~~16~~).

5. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 3 or 4, wherein at least two series of rolling elements (~~7, 8~~) are provided which are each in contact with respective raceways (~~5, 6~~) of both ring means parts (~~17, 19~~), one of said ring means parts (~~17~~) comprising an abutment (~~42~~) and being connected to an intermediate ring part (~~25~~) through a brazed connection (~~22~~), said intermediate ring part (~~25~~) comprising a flange (~~23, 26, 29~~) which is positioned at one axial end of the other ring means part (~~19~~), the other end of which abutting against said abutment (~~42~~).

6. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange (~~29~~) is connected to the intermediate ring part (~~23~~) through a screw connection (~~30~~).

7. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange (~~26~~) is connected to the intermediate ring part (~~25~~) through a welded connection (~~27~~).

8. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange (~~23~~) is obtained through plastic deformation of the intermediate ring part (~~25~~).

9. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of claims 3-8~~ claim 3, wherein the ring means parts ~~(9, 10)~~ and the intermediate ring parts ~~(12, 13)~~ together constitute an inner ring means ~~(2)~~ and/or an outer ring means ~~(1)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11;; 18; 24; 28)~~ have concentric facing surfaces which enclose a layer of brased material ~~(22; 32)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the bearing means are slidably supported with respect to each other.

12. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a relatively high grade material, e.g. a low carbon, high strength steel material, stainless steel or non-ferro materials like copper alloys, nickel alloys etc.

13. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a light weight material, e.g. aluminium, titanium, magnesium or their alloys.

14. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ and/or the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a ceramic component.

15. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly, comprising a bearing unit with at least two bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ which are displaceably supported with respect to each other, and an auxiliary unit ~~(31)~~ which is connected to at least one of said bearing means through a connection means ~~(36)~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the connection means ~~(36)~~ comprises a brazed or soldered connection ~~(32)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15, wherein the connection means ~~(36)~~ also comprises at least one further connection, e.g. a welded, screwed, glued or plastically formed connection.

17. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises brake means, e.g. a brake disc or a brake drum ~~(35)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises a cooling element, e.g. a vane member.

19. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises a mounting flange ~~(44, 45, 46)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 19, wherein the mounting flange ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ comprises a cast iron material, e.g. an ausformed ductile iron.